

Kirkwhelpington Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 4 July, 7:30pm

Present:

Councillors: Kevin Fortune, Eileen Rogerson, Mark Neale, Nicky Brown, Phil Lawless. Natalie Warren (Parish Clerk)

1 member of the public present.

Kevin Fortune opened the meeting as Vice Chair in the absence of the Chair.

1. Apologies

Received from Anne Palmer, Acting Chair.

2. New starters

New councillors Nicky Brown and Phil Lawless were welcomed to the Council. Natalie Warren was welcomed as Clerk & Financial Officer. (Brought forward from item 9)

3. Declarations of interest

Anne Palmer left comments for the meeting and declared an interest in item 8b.

4. Public questions

Member of the public expressed a desire to ask a question later during the section on public transport (2023/33)

5. Matters arising from previous minutes

2023/38 Drainage and lane repair, Albion Terrace

Nicky asked if the repair works had been completed. The group thought it had been, but there had been some subsidence in the surface since and the effectiveness of the repair would only be known after heavy, prolonged rainfall.

Action: contact Karbon Homes to see if repairs have been completed, or if more work is due to be done to the lane. Monitor flooding on road.

2023/ 28 B4RN

Barrasford cabinet is up and running and a project manager has been appointed to liaise with landowners re: access, but the roll out is slow in progressing.

2023/31 Repair to footpath from The Crofts to Eastlands.

Council are unsure as to ownership of the path.

Action: write to Duke of Northumberland estates to check ownership and ask for repairs/ maintenance to be done.

2023/33 Public transport

Bus timetables to be checked at the stop and replaced with new if needed.

Member of public commented that Nexus promote timetables across the county, which aren't the same as those the parish council have been sent. Traveline is a planning tool which can help people plan their journeys, so could be promoted. The times could also be printed in The Chimes Magazine on a regular basis.

Action: Contact Chimes magazine to suggest including

2023/34 Flooding near Memorial Hall

Area is still flooding.

Action: contact Highways to press for further work.

2023/44 generator for warm hub.

Trial of generator worked well. Need to ensure those who are operating know how to use it safely and the maximum load etc. David Pearson from the village hall committee has written to thank the council for their help with funding the generator and for transferring the strip of land for the extension build.

Action: contact hall committee to put in place a user guide and action plan for when a power cut occurs. May need volunteers to help. Ask them to provide information to the wider community which can be put in Chimes magazine/ on parish council website.

2023/45 Gilbert Grange

Respond with thanks, but ask if site could be made tidier, which may help them sell homes as well. Confirm if the road (Gilbert Grange) will be adopted by the County Council.

Action: contact Michael Nesbit, provide photos of the state of the site.

6. Finances still in process of being understood by Clerk. Need to update name and contact details on the bank accounts. VAT reclaim form needs to be completed. Two outstanding invoices:

Play area inspection - £115.20

Claire Miller invoice for audit - £60.

Approved by council members. Eileen and Mark will sign the cheques and Natalie will post them off.

Council approved purchase of a laptop for the Clerk. Mark will share the details of one he's found and Natalie will purchase and put on an expense claim.

7. Annual Government Statement has been signed and is on the website.

Planning matters

8a. 22/01909/CCMEIA/ proposed extraction of 3 million tonnes of dolerite, importation of inert infill material and associated highway and landscape works.

Some discussion over whether the changes in the application were significant enough to require another vote from the Council on their current position (no objection). 159 objections have been listed on the planning portal to date, with only 40 responses in support.

Action: Agreement was made that the parish council should write to the county council to voice dissatisfaction at not having been consulted when the new information was released. They should ensure to notify the PC when it comes to committee. Plus a comment should be made asking whether the applicant should again consult with the wider public as there have been significant changes to the application.

8b. 23/01962/VARYCO Land at Cold Law, Kirkwhelpington

There is a risk if enablement works commence, with no expectation of an end date the site will be left in an untidy state and the pressure will be removed from the applicant to complete the work in a timely manner.

Action: note objection to phased development.

8c. 23/01964/FUL single storey extension to existing house, Whitridge House

Plans are usually provided to the council on new applications, but may still be going to the former Chair. Natalie will look into getting notifications for applications and provide details to the councillors.

Vote on this application: 1 abstention, no objections.

9) - see item 2

10) Power cuts in the village

Mark provided an update from his contact with Northern Power Grid. They are unable to provide details for why each loss has happened, but the shorter surges could be due to a bird strike, or more recently a fire. There were 9 interruptions to power in 2021/22, but already the village has suffered 23 in 2023. Northern Power Grid currently have no plan for how to avoid the outages going forward, until they have assessed all the options.

Action: write to Ofgem to express dissatisfaction at outcome of communications with NPG. Write to Guy Opperman, Tynedale MP and ask for help in provoking action from NPG to avoid 423 residencies being without power again this winter.

11) Cutting of grass verges, A696

North side of road verge from village still requires further cutting to allow for visibility. Discussion was made of whether the extra cut could be made locally, but as it borders on a road, does require a council operative to complete the work.

Action: contact to be made with Highways to ask them to extend the grass cut to the north.

12) Update on Ray Wind Funds Community Interest Company

Current fund has £313,000 to award per year, which is expected to increase with interest rate rises. The Ray Wind Fund website provides full information on how to apply and what has been funded. £74,000 was given to local schools to help with the cost of living crisis, with headteachers providing support to those who are most at need in the parish. A query was raised if Belsay School was included, as although it may be out of the benefit area for the wind farm, a lot of children from the village attend that school.

13) To consider action to address Climate Change

Nicky suggested whether this was something the Ray Wind Fund could help fund for the village, but it was felt the requirements around waste collection and movement would be too difficult to organise in house.

Action: contact Karbon Homes and ask for a schedule of works for how they're improving the environmental footprint of the homes in their care (e.g. additional insulation etc).

14. AOB

Public were asked to leave the meeting at this point.

Concern was raised over parking in the village, and obstructions in some parking areas. This was forcing other vehicles to park off road on grass verges, which then prevented the grass cutting team from completing their work.

Action: This will be revisited in September at the next meeting.

Proposal received from Nick Winslow re: offering to maintain rights of way.

Action: ask for a proposed budget and plan for the works to be undertaken. Mark will ask for advice from a similar project in Shropshire. Need to check what the parish council are responsible for maintaining, and see if it's possible to purchase materials from the County Council. Ask for advice from the footpath officer on how to ensure repairs are up to standard.

Action: Response to a residents request for the parish council to include mowing their lawn along with the wider mowing programme to be denied - explain to resident their options with Karbon Homes.

Play area inspection has been received. Natalie will circulate.

15. Items for the next agenda.

- Play area inspection report
- Parking issues

Any agenda items need to be sent to the Clerk two weeks before the next meeting.

16. Next meeting is **Tuesday 5 September, 7:30pm** at the Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed 21:36.